

4

THE BOTANICAL FINE ART WEEKLY.
Subscription Price \$30.00 per Annum · Single Copies \$1.00



WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA



Vol. I., No. 4.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY G. H. BUEK & CO.

June 5th, 1894.

203 Broadway, New York.

ENTERED AT NEW YORK POST OFFICE, AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

A NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL.



WHEN the publishers undertook the work of presenting the "Wild Flowers of America" in these portfolios, the magnitude and value of the work were but vaguely realized.

It was not until the most competent judges declared that the value of the collection was beyond ordinary methods of computation that something like a realization of its value was arrived at.

The reception given to the "Wild Flowers of America" has been one of great warmth and cordiality.

From the first day the first portfolio reached the public the most gratifying acknowledgments have been literally pouring into the publishers' offices, and these from people whose judgment and experience gave a value to their opinions.

We quote in these pages from a few of the thousands of letters being received. The enormous correspondence on the subject attests a wide-spread, almost a universal interest, and a strong tide of public approval.

FROM CHAIRMAN AMOS J. CUMMINGS.

AMOS J. CUMMINGS, *Chairman*. COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,
1ST SESSION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
53D CONGRESS.
WASHINGTON, June 4th, '94.

The work of the "Wild Flowers of America" is most complete and accurate. The illustrations, both in color and detail, are true to nature, and the work is so comprehensive as a collection of all the flora of our country, that I cannot too strongly express my commendation of it as a popular educator.

It fills a long felt want, and for the first time places the native flowers of the United States within the means and reach of every man, woman, and child of our land.

Very truly yours,
AMOS J. CUMMINGS.

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE WILSON BILL.

WILLIAM L. WILSON, *Chairman*. COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
53D CONGRESS.
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 5th, 1894.

Mr. Buek's illustration of the "Wild Flowers of America" is a happy idea, and as far as I can judge, has been carried out with the enthusiasm of a botanist and the skill of an artist.

His plan of cheap serial publication is especially commendable, and puts the results of his patient and careful work within the reach of thousands, especially in our schools, who will be stimulated to a study and knowledge of American flora by the use of his plates.

WM. L. WILSON.



— 49 —
 SHEEP LAUREL.
KALMIA ANGUSTIFOLIA.
 JUNE.



— 50 —
 EARLY WILD ROSE.
ROSA BLANDA.
 JUNE.

PLATE 49.

SHEEP LAUREL. *KALMIA ANGUSTIFOLIA*. (HEATH FAMILY.)

Small branching shrub, one to three feet high; bark gray; leaves elliptical or oblong-ovate, entire, thickish, green above, glaucous beneath, mid-rib prominent; flowers in corymb-like clusters, the young leafy shoots growing beyond them, making them lateral; corolla short-campanulate, five-lobed.

"How beautiful the solid cylinders of the lamb-kill, now just before sunset, small, ten-sided, rosy-crimson basins."—THOREAU.



Of all our wild flowers, the Kalmias are perhaps the most characteristic. These noble shrubs with their magnificent clusters of pink-flowers and the shining, laurel-like leaves, are the crowning glory of our forests. Neither English rose nor French lily can vie with the Kalmia in majestic beauty.

The sheep-laurel is less stately than *Kalmia latifolia*, but is quite as handsome. The dark evergreen foliage is a fine setting to the mass of blushing flowers. In spring, when the light green of the young shoots is mingled with the deep color of the old leaves, the contrast is charming. The sheep-laurel, like the American-laurel or calico-bush, is supposed to be poisonous to cattle and sheep, hence the name sheep-laurel, or lamb-kill, as it is sometimes called. In spring, when there is nothing else to serve as pasture, the young shoots of the Kalmia are devoured often, it is said, with fatal results. The sheep-laurel flowers in May and June. All the kalmias are North American or West Indian.

PLATE 50.

EARLY WILD ROSE. *ROSA BLANDA*. (ROSE FAMILY.)

Shrub, one to three feet high, much branched; stems sometimes bearing small prickles, usually without; leaves pinnate with five or seven leaflets, which are oblong or obovate, sharply serrate, obtuse; stipules large; flowers solitary or in leafy corymbs, petals pink.

"A rose embowered
In its own green leaves
By warm winds deflowered,
Till the scent it gives
Makes faint with too much sweet these heavy winged thieves."—SHELLEY.



WHAT flower is so universally loved and admired as the rose! It is nearer to us than any other. In olden times it was held sacred. The Greeks and Romans never omitted it as the crowning ornament of their feasts. One Roman emperor astonished his guests by showering rose leaves upon them from the ceiling of his banquet hall. The English early took it as their national flower. The classic poets never wearied of singing the praises of the rose. In the lays of the troubadours, rose and nightingale were ever united in the songs addressed to fair women. Every English bard, from Chaucer to Swinburne, has lauded "the queen of flowers."

But the rose, whether we think of it as the gorgeous "La France" or "Perle de Jardin," products of centuries of cultivation, or as the wild, sweet hedge-flower, cannot be over-praised. Our own native roses are unrivaled in the world. Their blossoms, with the five pink petals circling the golden center, nestling among the dark green leaves, are very visions of beauty. Then, when the petals have long fallen and the summer is waning,

"Scarlet berries tell where bloomed the sweet wild rose."



— 51 —
FRINGED LOOSESTRIFE.
STEIRONEMA CILIATUM.
JULY.



— 52 —
GREAT WILLOW-HERB.
EPILOBIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM.
AUGUST.

PLATE 51.

FRINGED LOOSESTRIFE. *STEIRONEMA CILIATUM*. (PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

Perennial; stem erect from a creeping rootstock, angled, channeled; leaves opposite on long, ciliate petioles, ovate, very acute at the apex, thin, veiny; flowers on slender, axillary peduncles; calyx five-parted; corolla bright yellow, wheel shaped, five-parted; stamens five, with five other rudiments between them.

"The flowers that love the running stream,
Iris and orchis and the cardinal flower."



RYANT might well have added the fringed loosestrife to his array of brookside plants. It is one of the commonest and most familiar objects beside the streamlets. Its bright yellow, fringed blossoms open in midsummer, often in company with the delicate blue dayflower and the rich rose-purple swamp loosestrife. It is an upright plant, usually growing quite tall, as "flowers that love the running stream" are apt to grow. The fringed loosestrife is a widespread plant, growing from the far north to Florida and westward almost across the continent. It is a curious fact that aquatic plants, or those that grow by running water, often have a broad range. Doubtless their seeds are carried far and wide by the water, giving them the best of opportunities for generous

dispersion.

The name loosestrife has been applied to a number of quite dissimilar plants. The yellow-flowered loosestrifes are *lysimachias* and *steironemas*. The purple loosestrifes are species of *lithrum*. The nearly allied swamp loosestrife is *decodon verticillatus*.

Steironema is from two Greek words meaning "sterile threads," in allusion to the rudimentary stamens; *ciliata* refers to the fringed petioles.

PLATE 52.

GREAT WILLOW HERB, FIREWEED. *EPILOBIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM*. (EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

Stem erect, unbranched, nearly smooth, usually purplish; leaves alternate, short petioled, lanceolate, acute, margin obscurely toothed; flowers in a terminal raceme, showy; petals, four, rose purple; stamens eight; pods erect, long, linear, angled; seeds very small, bearing a tuft of long white hairs.



WE have two native plants to which the name "fireweed" has been given. One is a coarse, ill-smelling plant of the sunflower family, with greenish, rayless heads. The other is the showy willow herb. Both owe their name to the fact that when lands, especially forest tracts, have been burned over, these plants soon make their appearance in the cleared ground and cover the blackened soil with a fresh mantle of vegetation.

"No matter how barren the past may have been,
'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are green."

Both these fireweeds have delicately plumed seeds, which wing them afar in every passing breeze. So the fireweed often appears suddenly in a burned over and desolate tract, without having been seen before anywhere in the vicinity.

The great willow herb is found throughout wide areas of the North, ranging southward in the region of the Rocky Mountains. It displays its spikes of purple flowers in late summer. Few of our native plants are more showy and striking. The plant is hardly less attractive in fruit than in flower. The long pods, splitting open, reveal numerous, tiny brown seeds, each tufted with a fairy-like plume of white hair, much like those of the milkweed.



— 53 —

SPREADING DOGBANE.
APOCYNUM ANDROSAEMIFOLIUM.
 JUNE.



— 54 —

SMALL BEDSTRAW.
GALIUM TINCTORIUM.
 JUNE.

PLATE 53.

SPREADING DOGBANE. *APOCYNUM ANDROSÆMIFOLIUM*. (DOGBANE FAMILY.)

Stem smooth, much branched; leaves opposite, short-petioled, broadly ovate, sharply mucronate at apex, rounded at base; flowers in open cymes; calyx small, five-parted, divisions acute; corolla campanulate, five-lobed, lobes reflexed, pale pink or nearly white; stamens five; pods long and slender.



FAMILIAR butterfly with deep orange-red wings veined with black, known in the books as the *Archippus*, visits the dog-bane as well as the milk-weeds, which the early botanists held to be its kin. The later students of flowers declare that there is no family tie between the plants. Can we not repeat Mr. Gibson's question: "Which is right, the insect or the botanist?"

The true dog-bane is usually considered very dangerous, as the name indicates. The subject of the figure, the spreading dog-bane, nevertheless, charms the eye by its beauty. The leaves are of a rich green. The flower is a delicate rose-color or crimson, bell-shaped, the lobes gracefully rolled back. It is usually classed with the weeds, but is not an injurious one. It demands a cool climate and does not range very far southward. It blossoms in midsummer.

The Indian Hemp (*Apocynum Cannabinum*) is much more inclined to make itself troublesome as a weed. Because hardier, it is more common and widespread. The fibrous bark of its stem has given it the name, "Indian Hemp." *Apocynum* means "a plant that a dog should keep away from."

PLATE 54.

SMALL BEDSTRAW. *GALIUM TINCTORIUM**. (MADDER FAMILY.)

Stems weak, ascending or reclining, jointed, four-angled, angles retrorsely hispid; leaves in whorls of four or six, linear to oblanceolate, obtusish, the prominent mid-rib hispid; flowers small, on short spreading pedicels, in leafy, cymose clusters; calyx very minute; corolla whitish, three or four lobed.



IN summer one may discover, in marshes or moist meadows, a small, weak-stemmed plant with tiny white flowers, reclining on the grass and other herbage around it. Pull a piece of the stem and run your finger upward along one of the angles. It is quite rough, like the surface of a file. So are the margins of the leaves. This bristling little plant is the small bedstraw or goose-grass. It is found almost everywhere in North America, as well as in Europe and Asia.

There are numerous species of galium in this country, all of them rather insignificant plants with greenish, purplish or white flowers. *Galium circaezans*, the "wild licorice," a small plant of thickets and rich woods, with dull purple flowers, has a root with something of the flavor of licorice. Another common galium is the "cleavers," a European weed introduced into this country and plentiful in fields and waste ground. The sweet-scented bedstraw, "*galium triflorum*," has an odor in drying somewhat like that of the vanilla grass.

The bedstraws belong to the great madder family, which contains many ornamental and many highly useful plants. The cinchonas, which furnish quinine, rubia, the source of the useful dye—madder, and the coffee plant, are members of this important order.

*Usually known as *G. trifidum*.



— 55 —
 BUTTERCUP.
RANUNCULUS ACRIS.
 ALL THE SEASON.



— 56 —
 LABRADOR-TEA.
LEDUM LATIFOLIUM.
 JUNE.

PLATE 55.

BUTTERCUP. *RANUNCULUS ACRIS*. (CROWFOOT FAMILY.)

Perennial, hairy; roots a cluster of thickened fibres; stem erect from a short, thick rootstock, branched; leaves mostly clustered at base, long petioled, deeply parted, divisions variously lobed and cleft; flowers large, terminating the branches; petals five, yellow; stamens and pistils numerous.

"The golden king-cup shines in the merry month of May."—SOUTHEY.



HERE it is the "queen of the months" that brings the buttercups. Their gold is a meet diadem for royal June. Of all the glorious panoramas spread before us by the changing seasons, that of a meadow yellowed o'er with the bright corollas of the buttercups or "king-cups" is the most glorious. Thoreau, who found his chief pleasure in watching for and chronicling the wild flowers as they appear in succession, has this to say of the buttercups: "The clear brightness of June was well represented yesterday by the buttercups along the roadside. Their yellow cups are glossy and varnished within, but not without." The hermit of Walden is happy as usual in his description. The petals of the buttercup are as if painted with oil colors on the inside, while the outer surface is of the usual glossless yellow of yellow flowers.

Burroughs' observation on the profusion in which English wild flowers grow as compared with ours, is well borne out by the behavior of the buttercup and the ox-eye daisy in this country. When the ox-eye daisy gains entrance into a field, it is soon thick-starred with white and yellow. When a meadow is invaded by buttercups, its green quickly melts to gold.

PLATE 56.

LABRADOR-TEA. *LEDUM LATIFOLIUM*. (HEATH FAMILY.)

Small, shrub erect, branching, stem woolly above; leaves alternate, on short petioles, oblong or ovate-lanceolate, obtuse, thick, smooth above, tawny woolly beneath, margins revolute; flowers in rather dense, terminal clusters; corolla white, five-parted almost to the base; pod five-celled, splitting from base upwards.



AMERICA is indebted to the heath family for the handsomest of all her shrubs. In truth, we have not the glorious heath itself that in England and Scotland paints each upland moor with the bright purple of its fairy bells. But we have other plants not less beautiful. Our superb rhododendrons, with their great clusters of pale pink or rosy flowers topping masses of dark green foliage; the azaleas, with their blossoms of white, pink, rose-red, orange or flame-color; the royal kalmias; the sourwood, with its leafage of delicate green, turning to a fiery red in autumn, and its panicles of white, deliciously fragrant flowers, not unlike the bells of the lily-of-the-valley; and the sweetly odorous pepper-bush.

Worthy a place even with these is the Labrador-tea. Its dark green, leathery leaves are covered beneath with a rust-colored wool, which shields them snugly in the bud. The deep color of the upper leaf-surfaces contrasts well with the white flowers. One would expect fragrance in these blossoms. No, they are not scented. But the leaves, when bruised, exhale a faint, agreeable aroma. A decoction of the leaves is sometimes used as a tonic, hence the popular name. The Labrador-tea is found in deep woods and bogs in the Northern States and some parts of Canada.

PLATE 57.

HEDGE BINDWEED. VOLVULUS (CONVOLVULUS) SEPIUM. (CONVOLVULUS FAMILY.)

Stem climbing, smooth or nearly so; leaves alternate, long petioled, triangular-ovate, hastate or sagittate at base, acute at apex; flowers on long axillary peduncles, with two large, ovate bracts enveloping the calyx; corolla open-campanulate, white or rose-colored.

"The bindweed's ivory buds that glow
As delicately blushing as a shell."—CELIA THAXTER.



HE convolvulus sepium, bindweed, or morning glory is at its best now. It always refreshes me to see it. I associate it with holiest morning hours. It may preside over my morning walk and thoughts."

So writes Thoreau in midsummer, when the dog-days are approaching and the fields are less inviting at noontide than earlier or later in the day. It is then that we love morning and evening. When the winds of April blow we prefer mid-day with its warmth for our rambles. In July we choose the rising or the sinking sun for our companion. It is the flowers that we find open in the fresh morning, with the grateful dew in their cups, that then please us best. The morning-glory climbing the lattice to greet the newly-risen king of day with its uplifted white or pink or blue corollas; the man-of-the-earth that brightens upland fields with its great, white, purple-hearted flowers, closing before noon; or the cousin of these, the bindweed, twining in fence-rows and hedges, such are the flowers which greet the dawn.

It is a handsome plant, the bindweed, with its halberd-shaped leaves and its white or rosy bells. It is quite a cosmopolite, encamping in Europe and Asia as well as in North America.

PLATE 58.

RED CLOVER. TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE. (PEA FAMILY.)

Perennial; stems tufted, erect or ascending, hairy; leaves long petioled, with prominently-nerved, aristate stipules, palmately trifoliate, leaflets broadly ovate or obovate, marginate, dentate, appressed-hairy; flowers in dense terminal spikes; corolla irregular, with a long tube, rose-purple or sometimes white.



IN his delightful record of "Summer," Thoreau enters for June 15: "The clover gives whole fields a rich and florid appearance. The rich red and the sweet-scented white. The fields are blushing with the red as the western sky at evening." Again he writes, "The rude health of the sorrel cheek has given place to the blush of clover." What a pretty idyl of early summer is this! How vividly it brings before our eyes meadows where we have walked knee-deep in the green and purple of honeyed clover, fragrant as with the very breath of heaven. But there is use in all this beauty, and the incense of the blossoms is no idle gift. When our clover was borne to Australia and planted there, it thrived mightily, but refused to bring forth seed. And why?

Simply because the clover demanded the accustomed ministries of our humble-bee. When that faithful little servant was brought all the way across the Pacific to the plant in its new home, the succession of seed to blossom was at once established. Many a vital partnership like this subsists betwixt insects on the wing and the flowers into which they dip, for in the very act of taking its repast a bee, a moth, or butterfly, unwittingly pays its way by bringing pollen from one blossom to its mate.



— 57 —
 HEDGE BINDWEED.
CONVOLVULUS (*CONVOLVULUS*) *SEPIUM*.
 JUNE.



— 58 —
 RED CLOVER.
TRIFOLIUM *PRATENSE*.
 ALL THE SEASON.

PLATE 59.

DANDELION. TARAXACUM. (DENS-LEONIS). (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

*Perennial, acaulescent; rootstock short, thick; leaves smooth or nearly so, pinnatifid, divisions coarsely toothed, the uppermost much the largest; scape bearing the large head naked, hollow; involu-
cral bracts in two series; flowers all strap-shaped, yellow; achenes furnished with a tuft of white hairs.*

"The dandelions and buttercups
Gild all the lawn."—LOWELL.

"Dear common flower that growest beside the way,
Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold,
First pledge of blithesome May."—LOWELL.



OW glad we are to welcome the first dandelion as it peers forth in some sheltered corner when the grass is taking on a fresher green, when the buds on elm and maple begin to swell and the fresh fragrance of soil upturned by the plough is in the breeze. Cheery little yellow heads, awaiting but a day or two of warm, bright weather to show themselves. Sometimes they peep out in midwinter.

But when spring has commenced in earnest, how "the dandelions from the grass leap forth!" In a twinkling the sward is ablaze with their blithe faces. Then, when the yellow flowers have faded, the stalk grows on, bearing at its summit the ball of plumed seeds which children blow away to tell the hour. We can forgive Europe the host of pauper-plants she has flung upon our shores, for to her we owe the dandelions, so called from the fancied resemblance of its petals to the teeth of the lion.

PLATE 60.

COMMON BLUE VIOLET. VIOLA OBLIQUA (CUCULLATA). (VIOLET FAMILY.)

Perennial acaulescent; leaves on long petioles, broadly ovate to almost orbicular, deeply heart-shaped; flowers on long, slender peduncles; corolla deep blue, irregular, lower petal prolonged into a short blunt spur; stamens united by the filaments above the anthers into a ring around the pistil.

"The violet woos
To his heart the silver dew."—TENNYSON.



FTER all, we have few flowers that are dearer to us than our modest blue violet. We may lavish praise on this or that gorgeous plant, but we love best the little blossom that greets us as a familiar friend from every grassy fence-corner. What a clear, trustful color is the blue-purple of the dainty, spurred corolla! There is but one charm we would gladly see added to those of our blue violet—fragrance. That is what has made its cousin, the English violet, such a universal favorite. Shelley's lines—

"And the violet tells her tale
To the odor-scented gale.

would not apply to ours, at least to the blue violet. Some of our white violets are slightly odorous, for when Dame Nature withholds the gift of color, she is apt to bestow the charm of perfume. One other European violet is well known with us, the heart's-ease, viola tricolor. From this all the beautiful garden pansies are descended. It would be difficult to imagine a wider gamut of color harmonies than the pansy blossoms offer us. But the hue of our common blue violet presents as rich a color as any due to the gardener's nurture of the pansy.



— 59 —

DANDELION.

TARAXACUM (DENS-LEONIS).

ALL THE SEASON.



— 60 —

COMMON BLUE VIOLET.

VIOLA OBLIQUA (CUCULLATA).

MAY.

PLATE 61.

SHIN-LEAF. PYROLA ELLIPTICA. (WINTERGREEN FAMILY.)

Perennial; stem simple, bearing one or two clusters of leaves near the base and a terminal raceme of flowers; leaves decurrent on their petioles, broadly ovate or oblong, obtuse or retuse at apex; corolla five cleft to the base, greenish white.

" 'Tis sweet, in the green spring,
To gaze upon the wakening fields around;
Birds in the thicket sing,
Winds whisper, waters prattle from the ground,
A thousand odors rise,
Breathed up from blossoms of a thousand dyes.—BRYANT.



IF, at this season, so often and so well sung by our great poet, we wander through some fertile wood almost anywhere north of Virginia, we may notice little rosettes of dark green leaves close to the ground. Thick shining leaves they are, seeming to spring straight from the soil, unsupported by a stem. These leaves are evergreen and have survived the rigors of the long winter, under the snow. If we look into the centre of this cluster of leaves, we will find a tiny bud. Ere long this expands into a "pagoda-like stem of flowers." They are not showy blossoms; but modest and graceful.

" Flower-bells that expand and shrink."

They are greenish-white in color. Often we may detect a delicate, elusive odor about them.

The origin of the popular name for *pyrola elliptica* has been alluded to in the description of *pyrola secunda*. The wintergreens are a connecting link between the heaths and those curious, leafless parasites—the Indian pipe and its allies. The "Prince's pine" or pipsissewa is a near relation.

PLATE 62.

COMMON MUGWORT. ARTEMISIA VULGARIS. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

Perennial from a woody rootstock; stem tall, wand-like, smooth below, pubescent above, often purplish; leaves alternate, pinnatifid, divisions sharply cleft and toothed, white-woolly underneath; heads small in a long, narrow panicle; involucre cylindrical; flowers purplish, none of them ligulate.



HO would suppose that the mugwort with its small, purplish or pink, rayless heads, and the gorgeous sunflower are of the same blood? Yet so it is. It is with plants as with men. Each family has its beautiful and its homely members, its children fortunate or little favored. But the artemisias are not altogether the most poverty-stricken of their family. They have what the gaudy sunflowers lack—a grateful aroma. The fragrance of these plants is hardly to be compared to that of any others. It is peculiar and characteristic; it refuses to be described.

The common mugwort is a European weed which has naturalized itself here, especially near the Atlantic coast. Its most remarkable character is the whitened under-surface of the leaf. We have a large number of native artemisias, besides several that have come to us from Europe. Among these is the southern wood, a shrubby species, a fugitive from gardens. They are all aromatic and bitter to the taste. These qualities are very pronounced in *artemisia absinthium*, the wormwood which is so bitter that its name has become a proverb. This herb is used with brandy in the composition of the deadly cordial, absinthe. *Artemisia* was the wife of Mausolus, King of Caria, in whose honor she erected the famous mausoleum at Halicarnassus.



— 61 —
SHIN-LEAF.
PYROLA ELLIPTICA.
JUNE.



— 62 —
COMMON MUGWORT.
ARTEMISIA VULGARIS.
JULY.

PLATE 63.

SPRING BEAUTY. CLAYTONIA CAROLINIANA. (PURSLANE FAMILY.)

Perennial; stem weak, arising from a hard, rounded tuber deep in the ground; leaves opposite on long petioles, elliptical, or broadly spatulate: flowers on slender pedicels in a one-sided, terminal raceme; sepals two; petals five, much longer, pale pink; stamens five, attached to the petals.

"New are the buds on the oaken spray,
New the blades of the silken grass;
Flowers that were buds but yesterday,
Peep from the ground where'er I pass."—BRYANT.



AS the sap is flowing and leaves are unfolding, and the rich, moist woodland earth heaves and bursts with life, with the first sweet wild flowers that grace the footsteps of new-born spring, comes the claytonia. It is fitting that this, one of the fairest of our vernal flowers, should be called spring beauty. Under a sheltering bank or at the foot of protecting trees, arise the frail stems with their two fresh green leaves and the cluster of dainty blossoms. A delicate little plant it is, shivering in the slightest breath of wind. The round, nut-shaped tuber, deep in the ground, is the only hard, firm part of it. What words can describe the fairy blossoms of the spring beauty? The five petals of an ethereal pink, prettily veined with crimson-purple, are scarce earthly in their loveliness. One would feign believe they have fallen from celestial spaces.

PLATE 64.

COMMON WOOD-SORREL. OXALIS ACETOSELLA. (WOOD-SORREL FAMILY.)

Acaulescent; rootstock creeping, scaly; leaves on long petioles, palmately trifoliate, leaflets very broad, obovate, green and appressed-hairy on the upper surface, pale beneath, mid-rib prominent; flowers on peduncles as long as or longer than the leaves; petals five, white with purple veins.

"Sorrel, that hangs her cups,
E'er their frail form and streaky leaves decay,
O'er her pale verdure, till parental care
Inclines the shortening stems, and to the shade
Of closing leaves her infant race withdraws."—GISBORNE.



THIS little, elfin, wild-wood flower is the admiration of all who find it. It is a shy plant, liking best mossy nooks in forest solitudes. There it opens its elegant blossoms among the pretty, three-parted leaves. The petals are white, or with a faint blush of pink, charmingly penciled with purple and marked with yellow at the base. Like its sister, the yellow-flowered "sour-grass," it has a crisp, acid taste that is very refreshing and pleasant. The wood-sorrel grows in deep woods and bogs in the northern part of the continent, straying southward on the cool heights of the Alleghanies and Blue Ridge, to Georgia. It is also a native of Europe. This plant is accounted the origin of the Irish shamrock, the name having been gradually transferred to the commoner and better-known white clover. A "four-leaved" wood-sorrel is certainly rare.

A handsome sister of oxalis acetosella is the violet wood-sorrel, a native of our eastern country. It has rose-colored flowers, turning violet as they wither. In the world of flowers and leaves, decay's first ministry is often such embellishment as this.

"Blessings brighten as they take their flight."



— 63 —

SPRING BEAUTY.
CLAYTONIA CAROLINIANA.
APRIL—MAY.



— 64 —

COMMON WOOD-SORREL.
OXALIS ACETOSELLA.
JUNE.

A NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL.—CONTINUED.

FROM PROFESSOR KNOWLTON.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE,
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1st, 1894.

I had yesterday an opportunity, through the kindness of Mr. Charles Brewster Steele, of looking over a number of the colored plates of your work on the "Wild Flowers of America."

While there are already a number of works in which a few of our more conspicuous or interesting plants are figured, there is none, so far as I know, that is so exhaustive as yours will be.

If it is carried out as well for all the plants selected for illustration as it appears to have been for the ones submitted to me, it cannot fail to be of interest, and permanent value to the class of readers for whom it is especially intended.

Very respectfully yours,

Dept. of Botany, U. S. N. M.

F. H. KNOWLTON.

FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 4, 1894.

I have examined the plates of the "Wild Flowers of America" collected and edited by Mr. G. H. Buek, published in parts. * * I understand that this series will contain the illustrations of more than seven hundred Wild Flowers of the United States, representing with tolerable completeness the entire flora of the country. The illustrations show the coloring, shape, and size of the flowers as they grow. Nothing that has come under my notice is to be compared with this publication for the purpose of educating the people in a knowledge of botany. The price, too, is so low as to place the work at the command of every family in the country, and at least every school will place a set of these illustrations in its reference library.

Any publisher who reproduces in a book form the material of a science, and at a cheap price is a public benefactor. The publisher of this work seems to me to deserve the gratitude of all those interested in the study of botany. It is emphatically a work for home study.

Very sincerely,

W. T. HARRIS,
COMMISSIONER.

AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER LETTERS IN THE SAME STRAIN.

These portfolios are being issued in connection with several prominent newspapers for the sake of placing them within the reach of the multitude, and during the limited time that certain newspapers have the privilege of securing them to their readers at a special figure, the price is 15 cents. Any charge beyond this should be reported to the publishers.



